

we cannot underestimate their appetite for influence. When we are talking about China's track record, China has a history of aggressive actions which have been the source of tension in Southeast Asia.

In 1974, China seized the Western Paracel Islands from Vietnam. In 1988, China seized six of the Spratly Islands from Vietnam and sank three Vietnamese ships, claiming 70 Vietnamese lives. In 2007, China fired upon Vietnamese fishermen in the disputed area, killing one and wounding six others.

The Vietnamese American community has denounced China's claim to territory in the Spratly and Paracel Islands as unofficial, with no legal, historical or factual basis. China, in turn, ordered a ban on all Vietnamese fishing in these disputed territories until August 1, 2009; and during this ban, approximately 50 Vietnamese fishermen were detained.

China's actions infringe upon the sovereignty of the Vietnamese people to freely navigate crucial waterways that support their livelihoods, which is a direct violation of international treaties.

China's harassment is not limited to their neighbors. China has also engaged in hostile confrontations with U.S. vessels traveling through the disputed area.

Given these violations, it is time that the United States take aggressive action against China, and to, hopefully, resolve these disputes without resorting to any force.

We must pursue a peaceful resolution to this conflict in the South China Sea, and the United States must take actions in doing so.

In 2001, a Chinese Naval vessel attacked the USNS *Bowditch*, a U.S. surveillance ship, in the Yellow Sea, and, in another occasion, a Chinese Navy F-8 fighter collided with a U.S. Navy EP-3 reconnaissance plane in international airspace over the South China Sea. China detained the 24 U.S. crew members for 11 days.

In 2009, there were reports of aggressive encounters with the Chinese Navy and unarmed U.S. ocean surveillance ships, which were freely operating in international waters in the Yellow Sea and the South China Sea. A U.S. destroyer was called to escort the surveillance ships as they continued their operations and avoid further hostility from the Chinese Navy.

China's aggression poses a threat to the U.S.-China relationship, too. And, there is no excuse for these territorial disputes potentially pitting two powerful nations against each other.

The maritime disputes over the South China Sea must be addressed immediately to protect the United States' regional relationships and agreements.

For example, the United States is involved in the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty that covers the Senkaku Islands, which are actively disputed. If tensions increase for these islands, Japan might seek assistance from the United States against China.

Likewise, the United States continues to collaborate with the Philippines, and, if regional

tensions were to rise, the Philippines, too, might seek assistance from the United States against China.

China has test-fired missiles at enemies trespassing onto claimed Chinese territory. This may trigger other countries to expand their naval forces as well, which may cause more tension in these disputed waters.

I appreciate Secretary Clinton's statements on Friday that the resolution to the South China Sea dispute is a "national interest" to the United States, and I agree with her that we must seek a peaceful solution.

United officials including Secretary Clinton must demonstrate their strong concern for China's hostile actions, which are causing a disruption of free navigation.

At the same time, China needs to recognize and honor the freedom of navigation of all neighboring nations as well as the United States.

While the Chinese Foreign Minister said yesterday that the United States should not internationalize the South China Sea issue, which could worsen matters and complicate the situation, as an influential nation, we must not remain neutral and passive.

We must take action to end Chinese harassment—not only to ensure the freedom of navigation, but also to restore the respect and interests of the U.S. and these Asian nations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. QUIGLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PUTNAM addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate being recognized to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives. It is always an honor and one of the reasons I try to come down here often and convey the values that emanate from the Midwest; and hopefully some of the people across the rest of the country that don't adhere to those values can index with the things that we believe in.

But what I have found out, Mr. Speaker, as I have traveled around the country is that we have a tremendous amount of common values, from corner to corner of America and up through the Midwest as well. When I think of the States that I have been to in helping other candidates in trying to convey a message, from the Northeast to the Southeast to the South, up through the Midwest, down to the Southwest and off to the West, what I have found is that the people that show up, that care about our Constitution, the constitutional conservatives, the newly energized Tea Party groups that are out there, the 912 Project people that